



Los Angeles County
Mental Health Wellness Magazine

Minds & Matters

FALL 2011

ROBERT GUPTA'S AUGUST STREET SYMPHONY IS A MUSICAL HIT!

On Wednesday, August 24, 2011, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (LACDMH) Downtown Mental Health Center (DMHC) was packed with clients, employees and the media who were all there to listen attentively to Los Angeles Philharmonic violinist, Robert Gupta.

Gupta, a premier violinist, was joined by Colburn School of Performing Arts graduate, Zach Dellinger, who plays the viola. The pair captivated the audience with their renditions of pieces by Bach and Mozart.

"I really enjoy playing for everyone here. There's a connection with the music and the clients," Gupta said of his concert at DMHC. "In the months to come, I plan on continuing to get more and more clients in here to listen to our music and, hopefully, participate, too." DMHC serves as home base for Gupta's concert series.

He's performed several times already. The concerts are part of his efforts to bring music to the underserved communities, such as the homeless and mentally ill, throughout Southern California.

Plans for the next concert at DMHC are already underway, and Gupta is also working with other musicians to bring the street symphony beyond Downtown Los Angeles, including Dellinger who performs alongside him in many of the mini concerts on Skid Row.

"Robert (Gupta) is hoping to start up a larger movement to take his street symphony everywhere so other people can enjoy the music, too," stated Dellinger.



In This Issue

Dr. Southard

Employee
Recognition

Olive View
Community MH-
UCC

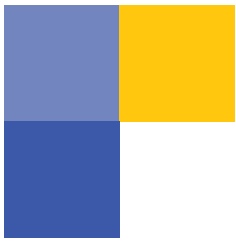
DMH News

DMH Calendar

hope
wellness
recovery

www.dmh.lacounty.gov





Minds & Matters

From Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W., Director
Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health



Pardon me if I begin on a personal note, as many of you know my mother passed away last May. Being on the “frontline” of mortality has made me reflect on my life and how I am spending my time.

So I have been thinking what a great honor it is to lead an organization like LACDMH that not only employs large numbers of talented and committed staff but also has that hard-working staff so intensely focused on making hope, wellness and recovery a reality, and not just a slogan for our clients and their families.

We are so busy and working on so many different things! We are a national leader in preparing for the implementation of health reform in a way that integrates behavioral health and primary health care. We are developing a “core practice model” for child welfare in conjunction with DCFS that will serve as a template for the rest of California.

We are preparing an evidence-based model for implementation in juvenile justice facilities that appears to be making a crucial difference. We are starting a massive prevention program using MHSA funds.

We are on the verge of implementing our electronic medical record. We have the best crisis and disaster response system in the country. We put together a remarkable AB 109 implementation plan in a matter of weeks. Our wellness centers win awards. Our Genesis program is a national model. I could go on and on, and these are the programs that merely came first to my mind.

But beyond our accomplishments, I wanted to express my appreciation for you LACDMH employees as people. From members of the EMT to clinicians I talk with, to the clerical and administrative staffs that support us, to outreach workers and peers, we have people at LACDMH who really care.

And believe me, there is nothing that can replace that sense of caring and knowledge that our work really matters. So, on reflection, I do not think that there is a better way for me to spend my time than the honor of working for hope, wellness and recovery with all of you.

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.

hope
wellness
recovery



Employee Recognition

Retired

July 2011

Marcia S. Klein,
10 years
Christine Wiegand,
18 years
J.A. Sanchez,
38 years
Mary Ballard,
38 years
Carmen Hernandez,
33 years
Nancy J. Bejune,
39 years
Sandra P Barber-
Moore, 25 years
Herlinda Q. Jackson,
38 years
Shohreh Ghaemian,
14 years

August 2011

Alice Wong,
12 years
Doris Soghor,
30 years
Janice Cabrera,
32 years
Aurea Hernandez,
32 years
Don Chaplin,
17 years
Ronald Klein,
34 years

September 2011

Umoren Edouk,
12 years
Mimi S. Hanzel,
14 years
Herminio S.
Academia, 12 years

LACDMH WINS FIVE NACo AWARDS FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Earlier this month, the National Association of Counties (NACo) announced the winners for the 2011 Achievement Awards. The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has been the recipient of this national award for each of the last four years. This year, five of our outstanding programs have been honored:

1) RESOURCE MAPPING FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES.

(Submitted by Vandana Joshi in the category of Information Technology)

2) COST SAVINGS WITHOUT COMPROMISING CARE.

(Submitted by Wayland Chan in the category of Financial Management)

3) LA PLACITA HOMELESS OUTREACH PROJECT.

(Submitted by Marcie Gibbs and Larry Hurst in the category of Health)

4) OLDER ADULT CONSULTATION TEAM FOR IMPROVING CARE.

(Submitted by Sarah Gelberd in the category of Employee Training)

5) NORTHEAST WELLNESS CENTER: WELLNESS IS EVERYONE'S BUSINESS.

(Submitted by Laura Span in the category of Human Services)

NACo Achievement Award winners receive a certificate from the national headquarters in Washington D.C., with summaries of award-winning programs included in a Model Programs database. Over the next several months, winning programs will be highlighted in NACo's County News.

LACDMH'S WENDI SELLERS WINS LA COUNTY STARS! AWARD

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors awarded Wendi Sellers from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) with the **LA COUNTY STARS!** award for the month of July, in the category of *Service Excellence and Organizational Effectiveness*. She was the only **LA COUNTY STARS!** winner for the entire month.

"It's an honor for me to come to work here everyday and do what I do," said Sellers. "I love what I do and feel privileged to help others."

Sellers is a Medical Case Worker II who has been with LACDMH for almost four years. She works in the Women's Community Reintegration and Education Services division. She was nominated by her supervisor, Kathleen Daly, M.D., M.P.H., LACDMH Director of Adult Justice, Housing, Employment and Education Services, and was honored by Mayor Michael Antonovich at the Board meeting on Tuesday, July 19th.

"She does excellent work and is being recognized for that," stated Marvin Southard, D.S.W., LACDMH Director. "She is a part of our Department and our Department's commitment to not just providing support but also helping women who are just out of jail with finding employment and reconnecting with their families. Wendi is helping them live full, rich lives. She is doing an outstanding job!"

LA COUNTY STARS! winners are recognized for their service excellence and organizational effectiveness, accountability, can-do attitude, compassion, integrity, leadership, professionalism and responsiveness.



Urgent Care Center Opening



STATE-OF-THE-ART COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH URGENT CARE OPENS IN SYLMAR

BY KAREN ZARSADIAZ, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER II

With funding from the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health's (LACDMH) Olive View Community Mental Health Urgent Care Center (UCC) held a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, to officially open its doors to the community.

"This building is part of the Hope, Wellness and Recovery for all those who come here," said LACDMH Director, Marvin Southard, D.S.W. He was joined at the grand opening by Los Angeles County Supervisors Michael Antonovich and Zev Yaroslavsky as well as Dr. Mitchell Katz, Director of the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

hope wellness recovery

"This building is part of the Hope, Wellness and Recovery for all those who come here,"
-LACDMH Director,
Marvin Southard, D.S.W.



"It's a state-of-the-art project that really came about because of the joint public and private partnership," added Supervisor Antonovich. "It took \$10.8 million to build it – and it was on budget and on time."

"This is a wonderful day for all of us," stated Supervisor Yaro-Slavsky. "This project represents intelligent investment into the disease. That's what mental illness is. It's a disease. I believe we've progressed in our views. We know it's a disease. We know it can be treated."

Under construction since March 2010, Olive View UCC is part of Los Angeles County's Psychiatric Emergency Room (PER) decompression plan to identify critical needs of every consumer and to address those needs as quickly as possible, preventing hospitalization and helping to relieve the County's general emergency rooms.

The Olive View UCC was reportedly completed two months ahead of schedule and \$1 million under budget.

Open seven days a week, Olive View UCC, will provide consumers with a place to get a brief clinical assessment, immediate case management, medication refills, acute mental health care, crisis intervention services, assistance with ongoing services for consumers, etc.

With a staff of more than 40, the brand-new Olive View UCC is expected to see more than 5,000 consumers every year.

"This facility gives the dedicated staff of the program the much-needed space they deserve and an opportunity to expand the nilieu of services rendered.

There is also something very special about being able to serve the community that one lives in. This is the case for almost all of our staff," said James Coomes, L.C.S.W., LACDMH Clinical Program Head for Olive View UCC.



LACDMH HOSTS SPECIAL SCREENING FOR PROFILES OF HOPE

A private screening of *Profiles of Hope* was held on Thursday, July 21, 2011, at KLCS-TV studios in downtown Los Angeles. Nearly 40 people attended the limited-seating event that included the screening and discussion of both the *Profiles of Hope* and a documentary about schizophrenia entitled *Living with Schizophrenia: a Call for Hope and Recovery*.

"The *Profiles of Hope* show recovery is a countywide role. We all need to support community because this is a human issue," stated Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) Medical Director, Roderick Shaner, M.D. "We, as the Department of Mental Health, can provide the resources and the treatment but it's all about community. This is what these stories do – provide a connection to community.

Among those who attended the event were *Profiles of Hope* participants: *CSI* actor and musician Robert David Hall, three-time World Boxing Council (WBC) champion Mia St. John and U.S. Vets president/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Stephen Peck, M.S.W.

The stories originally debuted on KLCS-TV throughout the month of May. Funded by the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), *Profiles of Hope* is used as a teaching tool to motivate audiences and erase stigma. Produced by the LACDMH Public Information Office, *Profiles of Hope* tells the stories of Robert David Hall, Mia St. John and Stephen Peck, M.S.W., as well as Emmy Award-winning actor Maurice Benard, Emmy Award-winning actress and author Mariette Hartley, and psychiatrist and television show host Clayton Chau, M.D., Ph.D.

After the *Profiles of Hope* was shown, Brian Canning from the weekly *Free Your Mind Projects Radio Show* moderated the panel discussion with Dr. Roderick Shaner, Robert David Hall, Mia St. John, Stephen Peck, M.S.W., and LACDMH PIO Director, Kathleen Piché. Ashley Smith, one of the three individuals featured in the *Living with Schizophrenia* documentary, also participated in the question-and-answer (Q&A) session.

WE HOPE YOU LIKE US... ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE!

It's time we all got social. Social media, that is!

Don't forget to "like" the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) on Facebook! And while you're at it, view all of our LACDMH videos/projects on our YouTube channel!

Since we have restricted access to Facebook and YouTube from our Los Angeles County-issued computers/laptops, you can view and "like" our Facebook page and YouTube posts from your personal/home computers/laptops and smartphones.

We have a Facebook page set up for visitors to read the latest news from LACDMH and to view pictures from various events. All you have to do is search for the "Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health" page.

And on the LACDMH YouTube channel, you can watch all our *Profiles of Hope* videos as well as all of our public service announcements. Simply type in "Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health" or "LACDMH" to find our exclusive YouTube channel!

For the easiest way to access our Facebook and YouTube channel, just click on the icons from the LACDMH internet Home page.

hope wellness recovery

LACDMH Mission

Enriching lives through partnerships designed to strengthen the community's capacity to support recovery and resiliency.

Our Values

Integrity: We conduct ourselves professionally according to the highest ethical standards.

Respect: We recognize the uniqueness of every individual and treat all people in a way that affirms their personal worth and dignity.

Accountability: We take responsibility for our choices and their outcomes.

Collaboration: We work together toward common goals by partnering with the whole community, sharing knowledge, building strong consensus, and sharing decision-making.

Dedication: We will do whatever it takes to improve the lives of our clients and communities.

Transparency: We openly convey our ideas, decisions and outcomes to ensure trust in our organization.

Quality and Excellence: We identify the highest personal, organizational, professional and clinical standards and commit ourselves to achieving those standards by continually improving every aspect of our performance.



Los Angeles County
Department of Mental Health is
dedicated to partnering with
clients, families and communities
to create hope, wellness and
recovery.



<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

**Los Angeles County
Board Of Supervisors**

William T Fujioka,
Chief Executive Officer
Gloria Molina, First District
Mark Ridley-Thomas,
Second District
Zev Yaroslavsky, Third District
Don Knabe, Fourth District
Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor,
Fifth District

**Los Angeles County
Mental Health Commission**

Terry G. Lewis, MS, Exec. Director
Jerry Lubin, AICP, Chairman
Larry Gasco, PhD, LCSW, Chairman
Helen B. Wolff, MD, MPH, Vice Chair
Hayward McNeill, MPH, Secretary
Howard L. Askins, MD, JD
Frank C. Baron, CALMHB/C Rep.
George Caballero, LCSW
Phillip Chen, Health Deputy,
Fifth District
Arnold L. Gilberg, MD, PhD
Delores Huffman
Barry Perrou, PsyD
Ilean Rabens, MA
Victoria A. Sofro
Carlos Sosa, MSW
Greg Thompson, LCSW

**Los Angeles County
Department of Mental Health**

550 South Vermont Avenue
12th floor
Los Angeles, CA 90020
<http://dmh.lacounty.gov>

Director: Marvin J. Southard, DSW
Editor-in-Chief: Kathleen Piché,
PIO Director
Contributors: Karen Zarsadiaz, PIO
II & Kimberli Washington, ITC/PIO

Minds & Matters is published by the
Los Angeles County
Department of Mental Health.

For article ideas and submissions,
e-mail kpiche@dmh.lacounty.gov,
or fax to (213) 381-8361.



A Final Thought

By Kathleen Piché, L.C.S.W., Public Information Office Director

The end of the year usually comes as a latent shock to many. When October rolls around, I have a vague awareness that a new year is on the not-too-distant horizon—there is no conscious awareness that the last quarter of 2011 will speed by like a freight train until it's over. New Year's Day will arrive before we catch our breath.

Like most of us, when January comes, we will look back in retrospect, take stock of what has passed and try to sort out personal and professional accomplishments. We will ask ourselves "Why does time go by so quickly?" And we will answer, "Because we are distracted by the

day to day, planning for next week and accomplishing current and future goals." Life pushes on and sometimes we get lost in it.

As part of an office that reports weekly on events and programs within DMH, the Public Information Office can confidently report that our department has produced an amazing amount of notable accomplishments in 2011.

Take a laser-like look of our 2011 e-news headlines and see what has happened. Then take a moment to acknowledge the important part you play in making the myriad of programs and events in the department work.

2011 Calendar of Events

- January - West Central Family Mental Health and Wellness Center Gets Award for "Most Innovative Group Practice"
- February - Compton Family Mental Health Connects with Community
- March – DMH Starts Radio Show for Mental Health Prevention and Education
- April – Connections for Life Conference at Cal Endowment; Changing the Game of Shame -- Ron Artest Talks to Jefferson High School Students about Mental Health; Congresswoman Grace Napolitano Tapes PSA for DMH
- May - May Is Mental Health Awareness Month – All New "Profiles of Hope" Video Series Premieres on Local Public Television; First-Ever TAY conference
- June - 10th Annual Conference on Mental Health & Spirituality
- July – Healthy Way LA Up and Running
- August – Olive View UCC Opens
- September – First-Ever Suicide Prevention Summit
- October - Treatment of Substance Use, Mental Health and Primary Care Disorders in the Era of Health Reform Conference
- November – Robert Gupta/Drumming For Your Life Event "Streets Meet Beats"
- December – Grand Opening of MHSA Ford Apartments